What's new at Shanna Schmidt Numismatics Inc. View this email in your browser

SHANNA SCHMIDT NUMISMATICS INC.

Newsletter #242:

What's New at Shanna Schmidt Numismatics Inc.

Hello coin enthusiasts!

I hope everyone has been finding success at the auction table lately. The past few weeks have offered some genuinely appealing smaller sales, and today — Thursday, April 9 — was no exception with the Astarte auction in Lugano. Had I not been so pressed for time last week, I would have given it the advance notice it deserved. The opening 136 lots formed a curated group called the Connoisseur Collection, and it lived up to the name, with some notable rarities that I rather hoped might slip under the radar. I was wrong about that. The sale did yield a few bargains here and there, but the best pieces attracted serious bidding and sold for serious money.

If you came away empty-handed, take heart — there are some spectacular sales on the immediate horizon, which I've outlined below. And if you'd rather not wait, I'd encourage you to have a look at what I've added to my own inventory from these recent auctions. Buying on behalf of clients has a way of making one covetous, and I confess I've succumbed more than once — so there are some very decent examples available right now.

MDC Monaco E-Auction 17 (11 April 2026)
Also closing this Saturday, April 11, is MDC Monaco's E-Auction 17, and I want to draw particular attention to the opening section of the sale — 334 lots devoted entirely to a medals collection. French medals and jetons are something of an underappreciated corner of the numismatic world, and this sale is a good reminder of why they deserve more attention. The artistry that French medallists brought to their work, from the Renaissance through the nineteenth century, rivals anything produced in the ancient world, and the sheer variety of subjects — royal portraits, commemorative events, guild and trade tokens — makes building a collection genuinely enjoyable. What I find especially appealing is the accessibility of it all: beautiful, historically significant pieces can often be acquired for very modest sums compared to what comparable quality would cost in Greek or Roman material. The remaining lots in the sale carry through with coins and medals spanning a wide range, and the whole catalog is worth a browse even if medals are not typically your

St. James Auction 120 (15 April)
St. James's Auction 120 on April 15 in London is another sale that falls largely outside the ancient sphere but is well worth your attention. With 224 lots in total, it is a focused, carefully assembled offering, and the British coin section alone — 159 lots — contains some genuinely distinguished pieces spanning well over a thousand years of English and British coinage.

The sale opens with a single Celtic gold stater of the Corieltauvi, and then moves straight into the early medieval material with lot 3, a penny of Alfred the Great, Phase III, London Monogram type, struck under the moneyer Tilewine. It is a beautifully toned example — the estimate of £10,000 reflects its rarity — and the minor flan flaw on the reverse at 7 o'clock does nothing to diminish its appeal as a genuinely lovely coin. Not far behind is lot 8, a Commonwealth pattern shilling of 1651 by Blondeau, with the kind of rainbow toning that photographs never fully capture. Its provenance traces to a private Seaby sale in 1970, which for collectors of British material adds a pleasant layer of history. In between there are further highlights to reward careful browsing: lot 4 is a fine silver coinage halfcrown of Edward VI, lot 5 a half pound of Elizabeth I's first to fourth issues, and lot 7 a Newark besieged shilling of Charles I dated 1645, the sort of siege piece that always generates spirited interest.

From lot 61 onward the sale shifts into a long and well-organized run of Elizabeth II proof and proof-like gold coinage, opening with the 2007 gold proof fifty pence commemorating the centenary of the Scouting Movement, its reverse showing a fleur-de-lis on a globe. The reverses throughout this section are a delight — the whimsical charm of Winnie the Pooh sits alongside more solemn commemoratives such as the 800th anniversary of the Magna Carta, a reminder that the modern Royal Mint has always had a gift for choosing subjects that resonate across generations. Collectors of proof sovereigns will find a generous selection spanning multiple years and portrait types, including several 2017 Pistrucci Bicentennial issues in both standard and piedfort formats.

The world coins section brings a curious and specialized highlight in lots 192 through 196, five ZAR Kruger kaalpond (blank pond) pieces dating to around 1900, all NGC-certified. These are unstruck planchets — gold blanks intended for pond coinage that were never given their dies — a fascinating numismatic artifact from the final turbulent years of the South African Republic on the eve of the Boer War. They appear in two varieties, with and without rim, and all five carry estimates of £1,000–1,250, which seems quite accessible given their historical significance. The medals section at the close is also well worth a look, headlined by a remarkable lot 208 — a gold medal by Nicolas Briot commemorating Charles I's return to London in 1633, estimated at £27,500 — and lot 210, an ornate oval gold members' medal of the Cumberland Society commemorating the Battle of Culloden, estimated at £20,000.

Peus Auction 444 and 445 (21-24 April)
Now for an exciting ancient coin auction! Peus has a pretty intense collection of Celtic pieces coming to the auction block on April 21. It is a rather large collection entitled the König (King) collection. There are pedigrees throughout and several private treaty purchases. Large Celtic collections are not often coming up for auction so this is one that will definitely pique some interest. I did notice a dozen or so withdrawn lots but there were still more than enough to choose from.

Auction 444 opens with the König Collection, a remarkable holding of 961 lots devoted almost entirely to Celtic coinage, with the overwhelming majority struck in gold or electrum. The geographical range alone is extraordinary — from the Atlantic seaboard

more like a scholarly reference than a standard sale listing. Standout pieces include a double stater of the Helvetii, an extremely rare stater of the Vindelici, and two scarce staters of the Boii. For collectors of Gaulish material, perhaps the single most exciting feature is a run of no fewer than 17 staters and fractional pieces of the Parisii — types so scarce and expensive that most Celtic collections are fortunate to contain even one or two examples.

Auction 445, which follows the next day, deserves attention in its own right and should not get lost in the excitement of the Celtic material. At its core is the broad universal collection of Dr. Fritz Reiff, a solidly assembled holding that spans the full sweep of ancient numismatics from the very beginnings of Greek coinage through to the late Roman period. The Roman Republican section is particularly worth singling out — Peus has historically attracted serious bidding on Republican denarii, and pieces with meaningful pre-war or early European collection pedigrees have consistently rewarded collectors who pay attention. The catalog also includes Aes Grave, the heavy cast bronze coinage of early Rome, which surfaces rarely in any quantity and tends to appeal to a different kind of collector — one drawn to the sheer archaeological weight and primordial character of these objects as much as to their monetary history.

Supplementing the Reiff material are two separate Greek collections of notably fine quality, both with good pedigree depth and a particular strength in Hellenistic issues. Alexander-type tetradrachms and Seleucid coinage feature prominently, and it is worth remembering from the results of the König Part I sale last November just how aggressively Peus bidders respond to well-provenanced pieces in this category — an Augustus aureus with Mazzini collection provenance jumped from a €7,500 estimate to €19,000, and a denarius of C. Antonius with outstanding provenance fetched €38,000 against a €5,000 estimate. The lesson, as always at Peus, is that quality and pedigree carry a genuine premium in the room. Those with good taste and patience going into Auction 445 will find much to consider across all price points.

Day 3 shifts entirely into German coinage and medals, and the range is genuinely impressive — this is the kind of broad, historically layered offering that rewards collectors working across multiple areas. The section opens with early bracteates, the thin uniface silver pennies struck from roughly the twelfth through fourteenth centuries, whose fragile beauty and extraordinarily varied iconography make them some of the most artistically interesting objects in all of German medieval numismatics. City views, ecclesiastical imagery, heraldic devices, and royal portraits all appear across the bracteate series, and the selection here spans a good geographical cross-section of the German-speaking world. For collectors who have never looked seriously at bracteates, this is exactly the kind of offering that tends to convert the uninitiated — the prices can still be very accessible relative to what you are actually holding in your hand, and the better pieces carry the kind of visual impact that photographs rarely do justice to.

Moving through the later medieval and early modern periods, the catalog covers a wide sweep of German city and regional coinage — the sort of varied, encyclopedic material that Peus has always handled with particular care and deep institutional knowledge, given their 150-year history in the Frankfurt market. Scattered through this section are the emergency klippes that caught my eye — square or multisided emergency strikes produced during sieges and military crises, often crudely cut but carrying an immediacy and historical urgency that regular coinage simply cannot match. They are the numismatic artifacts of desperate moments, and they tend to speak for themselves on the table.

The Goetz medals deserve special mention for anyone with an interest in early twentieth century medallic art. Karl Goetz, the Munich-based sculptor and satirist, produced over

internationally — his infamous Lusitania medal being the most widely known example. The selection here in silver is a genuine opportunity. Peus has hosted major Goetz collections before and the room tends to respond enthusiastically; a Goetz collection offered in a previous Peus auction attracted record results in several cases. Those who collect on artistic grounds as much as numismatic ones will find much to appreciate, and for anyone newer to the series, the Kienast reference catalog remains the essential guide to navigating the opus numbers.

I will be participating in this sale so please get in touch if you need auction representation.

Upcoming NAC Zurich sales 164-168 (May 2026)
We are still a bit too early to discuss the May NAC Zurich sales but I have seen the pre-catalogs and they are impressive. NAC will have 5 different catalogs this spring. Auction 164 will be a Roman Republican collection, Auction 165 is a general sale with a beautiful selection of Greek and Roman. Auction 166-168 are various British coins from the Traveller and Schneider collections. In the next newsletter I will give a thorough overview of the sale and share some of my favorites! Hang tight!!

Upcoming Trade Show - Central States Numismatic Society (23-25 April)
Shanna Schmidt Numismatics Inc. and NAC USA are delighted to be attending the **CSNS 2026 in Schaumburg, IL at the Renaissance Hotel and Convention Center.** This show has grown by leaps and bounds in popularity in the last few years. In fact, next year NAC is tentatively planning to schedule an auction during or right after the CSNS show. We are actively looking for consignors for our first auction in Chicago.

For those who have not yet attended, the Central States Numismatic Society convention is now in its 87th year and has firmly established itself as one of the premier numismatic gatherings in the country. The 2026 show runs April 22–25, with more than 400 dealers buying and selling across every area of the hobby. The venue is ideal — the hotel connects directly to the convention center, parking is complimentary for all dealers and attendees, and the location just off I-90 makes it easy to reach from anywhere in the Chicago metro area. It is also only 14 miles from O'Hare, which makes it genuinely convenient for out-of-town collectors flying in for the show.

The programming this year is particularly strong. United States Mint Director Paul Hollis is scheduled to attend on opening day, April 23, and will be the featured speaker at an educational seminar that morning as part of the Newman Numismatic Portal Symposium. Additional speakers include Jeff Garrett, editor of A Guide Book of United States Coins, Dr. Ute Wartenberg Kagan, executive director of the American Numismatic Society, and Lawrence Brown, former Chair of the Citizens Coinage Advisory Committee — a genuinely impressive lineup for anyone with broader numismatic interests beyond the bourse floor. Heritage Auctions will serve as the official auctioneer of the convention and will conduct a sale featuring U.S. coins and banknotes as well as world and ancient coins. All major grading services — NGC, PCGS, ANACS, CAC, and PMG — will be accepting on-site submissions throughout the show as well.

The show also features a dedicated world and ancient specialty section, which is part of what has made CSNS increasingly relevant to our corner of the market in recent years and a natural home for SSNI and NAC USA. We will have a broad selection of ancient Greek, Roman, and eastern Mediterranean material at our tables throughout the show. Whether you are looking for something specific, want a second opinion on a piece you are considering, or simply want to catch up, we would genuinely love to see you. **Tables 1808 and 1809** — come find us.

Bruttium, Kaulonia. c. 475 - 425 BC
AR Didrachm, 8.38g (31mm, 12h).
KAVΛ; Apollo striding to r., holding a branch aloft in his raised r. hand and a small daemon on his outstretched l.; in front of him, a stag walking to the r. with its head turned back. / Same design, incuse.

Pedigree: Ex. CNG Triton XXII, 2019, lot 76. Ex NGSA 7, November 2012, Lot 133. Manhattan Sale II, 2011, Lot 5. Ex Freeman & Sear FPL 11 (Spring/Summer 2006), Lot 11. Ex Münzen und Medaillen 52, 1975, lot 51. Sotheby's, Wilkinson & Hodge, 3 February 1909, lot 99, and sold by Rollin & Feuardent. From the PML, Gasvoda, Peter Guber, and Frank Sherman Benson collections

References: SNG ANS 142; SNG München 1396; HN Italy 2035; Noe, Caulonia Gruppe A 5h (this coin)

Grade: A near perfect example with an incredible pedigree back to 1909. This coin has lovely cabinet toning and fine style details. FDC for issue. Graded by NGC (tag: 4284630-001, Ch AU*, Strike: 5/5 - Surface: 5/5

Price: $47,500

gk2128

Buy Coin

Kaulonia was among the most artistically ambitious of the Greek colonies of Bruttium, and her silver staters and didrachms count among the most visually compelling achievements of archaic South Italian coinage.

and the combination of NGC's top designation with over a century of documented history makes this an opportunity that collectors of Magna Graeciaurel branch, while on his outstretched left a small daemon perches - a mysterious attendant figure whose exact significance has been much debated but whose presence lends the composition an otherworldly density. Before Apollo, a stag walks to the right with its head turned back toward the god, completing a scene of remarkable spatial complexity for its period. The reverse reproduces the same design in incuse, a hallmark of the early South Italian tradition inaugurated by the Pythagorean communities of Magna Graecia, where the incuse reverse was understood as both an aesthetic and perhaps a philosophical counterpart to the relief obverse. The inscription ΚΑVΛ identifies the issuing city with the quiet confidence of a mint at the height of its powers.

This is a near-perfect example of the type, graded by NGC as Choice AU* with a strike of 5/5 and surface of 5/5 - the star designation acknowledging exceptional quality within the grade, and in this case the coin is fully deserving of it. The cabinet toning is precisely what one hopes for in a coin of this age and metal, a warm, even patina that enhances rather than obscures the fine style details. The dies are beautifully centered, the fields clean, and the relief sharp throughout.

The pedigree is exceptional by any standard and traces an unbroken chain of distinguished ownership back over a century. The coin was sold by Rollin & Feuardent at Sotheby's, Wilkinson & Hodge on 3 February 1909, passing from that historic sale through the collections of Frank Sherman Benson, Peter Guber, and the celebrated Gasvoda Collection before appearing in Freeman & Sear's Fixed Price List 11 in Spring/Summer 2006. It subsequently passed through the Manhattan Sale II in 2011 and NGSA 7 in November 2012 before being offered at CNG Triton XXII in January 2019.

Crucially, the coin is cited as Noe, Caulonia Gruppe A 5h - identified as this very piece - giving it the additional distinction of being a plate coin in the specialist literature on Kaulonian coinage.

Coins of this type with this quality of style, surface, and provenance depth appear rarely, and the combination of NGC's top designation with over a century of documented history makes this an opportunity that collectors of Magna Graecia material will not want to overlook.

Coin on my website

If you are interested in any other coins I have to offer please visit my website: shannaschmidt.com

Until next week!
Shanna

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